(iii) Regularly monitoring of the programme at the State/Central Level, on the basis of Monthly, and Annual Progress Reports.

(iv) Visit of the Area Officers of the Ministry at regular intervals to State/DRDAs.

(v) Participation of the Swarozgaris from different States/UTs in Fairs to promote marketing of SJGSY products.

(vi) Regular training and sensitization of the State/DRDA, field level functionaries as well as Bank Officials about the programme.

(vii) Consultation, at regular interval, with Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and other commercial banks about credit related issues.

(viii) Based on the recommendations of National Conference on the "SHG Movement and the SJGSY", held last year, Report of the Working Group on Poverty Alleviation for the 10th Five Year Plan and feedback/suggestions from the various State/UTs certain amendments have been made in the SJGSY guidelines to make the scheme effective.

(ix) Creation of Marketing infrastructure in the States through SJGSY Special Projects.

(x) Incentives to NGOs for development of SHGs i.e. fromation of SHGs, their capacity building training, assistance to acquire bank finance and post-project monitoring etc.

Implementation of Financial Powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions by States/UTs

†150. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that financial powers delegated to the Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Constitution Seventy-third (Amendment) Act, 1992 has not been made effective by the States/Union Territories;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper implementation of financial powers by the States/Union Territories; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure proper implementation of Panchayati Raj System in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Since the enactment of Constitution Seventy-third (Amendment) Act, 1992, the States/UTs have developed financial powers upon Panchayats in varying degrees.

(c) and (d) The Central Government have been requesting the States/UTs to devolve more powers to Panchayats through high level meetings and through correspondence with the Chief Ministers, State Ministers/State Secretaries in charge of Panchayati Raj. At a Conference of the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in July, 2001 at New Delhi, it was resolved that the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations would devolve powers upon Panchayats in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. In the All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan held in April, 2002 at New Delhi it was *inter-alia* resolved that powers be devolved on Panchayats by 31-12-2002 the matter is being pursued with the State Government.

Beneficiaries of NOAPS

†151. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are implementing National Old Age Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits being provided under this Scheme; and

(c) State-wise number of beneficiaries as on date ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.